

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 045437

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: FR, PFOR

SUBJECT: LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER BARRE FROM BERGSTEN

1. PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING LETTER TO: HIS EXCELLENCY
RAYMOND BARRE, PRIME MINISTER, HOTEL MATIGNON, 57 RUE DE
VARENNE, 75005 PARIS, R.P. FRANCE:
2. BEGIN LETTER:
DEAR RAYMOND:

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE LATEST NUMBERS ON INFLATION. LE
PLAN BARRE IS CLEARLY TAKING HOLD. I AM DELIGHTED; YOU
CONTINUE TO HAVE OUR COMPLETE SUPPORT.

I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY OF A QUICK TRIP TO PARIS LAST
FRIDAY TO ASK JACQUES DE LAROSIERE ABOUT THE FOLLOW-UP TO
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OUR DISCUSSION, AT THE LUNCHEON FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT,
CONCERNING THE FRENCH CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROPOSED FIFTH
REPLENISHMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION
("IDA V"). AS YOU KNOW, IT IS HOPED THAT THE REPLENISHMENT
CAN BE AGREED AT A MEETING SCHEDULED FOR VIENNA ON MARCH 14-
15.

JACQUES INDICATED THAT YOU HAD INDEED UNDERTAKEN TO REVIEW THE ISSUE, FOR WHICH I AM DEEPLY GRATEFUL. HE ALSO

REMINDED ME OF THE BUDGETARY DIFFICULTIES WHICH YOUR GOVERNMENT IS NOW FACING, WHICH I FULLY APPRECIATE, AND THE SIZABLE PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN FRANC CONTRIBUTIONS WHICH WOULD BE REQUIRED TO PRESERVE THE NORMAL FRENCH SHARE IN THE REPLENISHMENT.

NEVERTHELESS, I THOUGHT I WOULD DROP YOU THIS PERSONAL NOTE SIMPLY TO REITERATE OUR HOPE THAT YOU WILL DECIDE TO CONTRIBUTE THAT SHARE. THE MAGNITUDES OF MONEY INVOLVED ARE QUITE SMALL, AND ACTUAL DISBURSEMENTS ARE SPREAD OVER A NUMBER OF YEARS. AND IT IS CLEARLY IN THE INTEREST OF ALL COUNTRIES TO ACHIEVE A SUCCESSFUL IDA V -- PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF THE PENDING CLIMAX OF THIS ROUND OF NORTH-SOUTH TALKS ON WHICH, AS I TOLD JACQUES, THE UNITED STATES HAS NOW ADOPTED THE FRENCH POSITION ON TIMING AND IS MOVING TOWARD YOUR PROPOSALS ON COMMODITY TRADE.

IN ADDITION, I SHOULD NOTE THAT OUR CONGRESS HAS JUST MOVED TOWARD APPROPRIATING THE 55 MILLION DOLLARS WHICH HAS BEEN RELATIVELY LITTLE MONEY, BUT WITH POLITICAL AND SYMBOLIC IMPORTANCE WELL IN EXCESS OF THE NOMINAL AMOUNT. IN ADDITION, PRESIDENT CARTER IS PROPOSING TO DOUBLE THE ANNUAL U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO IDA -- FROM 325 MILLION DOLLARS FOR IDA IV TO 800 MILLION DOLLARS FOR IDA V.

I AGAIN THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR GIVING YOUR CONSIDERATION
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TO THIS SMALL, BUT IMPORTANT, ISSUE. IT WOULD BE A PLEASURE TO SEE YOU AGAIN IN THE NEAR FUTURE, AND I WISH YOU CONTINUED BEST OF LUCK IN ALL YOUR CRITICAL ENDEAVORS.

SINCERELY,

C. FRED BERGSTEN
ASSISTANT SECRETARY-DESIGNATE
FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20220. END OF LETTER.

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